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PROPOSED CLAIMS- AMENDMENTS SHOWN

1. (Currently Amended) A self-aligning coupling device adapted for installation in a channel that includes having an open end and a pair of substantially parallel side walls, ~~the device comprising:~~

an elongate connecting portion having a longitudinal axis;

a channel abutment portion associated with the connecting portion that is adapted to travel along with the connecting portion within the channel in a first direction toward the open end of the channel and a second direction opposite from the first direction; [[and]]

at least one laterally projecting lug associated with said channel abutment portion;
~~arranged such that in use the coupling device may be installed in the channel with the channel abutment portion located at least partially within the channel and the laterally projecting lug located outside the open end of the channel;~~

wherein the channel abutment portion has a first position of use within the channel wherein the channel abutment portion is adapted to engage a side wall of the channel such that rotation of the at least one laterally projecting lug about the longitudinal axis in a first angular direction is prevented and a second position of use wherein the at least one laterally projecting lug is rotatable about 90 degrees in a second angular direction, which is opposite from the first angular direction;

wherein when in said first position of use, movement of the channel abutment portion in the first direction and within the open end of the channel will allow rotation of the channel abutment portion and associated at least one laterally projecting lug to the second position of use;
and

wherein when in said second position of use, the at least one laterally projecting lug is adapted to be positioned within the open end of the channel, beyond at least one of the side walls of the channel, whereby retraction of the coupling device in the second direction will engage the at least one laterally projecting lug onto at least one of the side walls such that further movement of the coupling device in the second direction is prevented; and

~~the channel abutment portion being formed such that when aligned in a first angular position within the channel it abuts at least one said side wall of the channel to prevent rotation of the device in a first rotational direction about said longitudinal axis, while allowing rotation in a second, opposed, rotational direction, and~~

~~the lug being formed such that in said first angular position it extends beyond at least one of the side walls of the channel, whereby when the coupling device is retracted into the channel while simultaneously applying a torque to rotate the device in said first rotational direction towards said first angular position, the channel abutment portion will abut the side walls of the channel thereby aligning the lug to extend beyond at least one of the side walls of the channel to prevent the coupling device from being fully retracted into the channel.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The self-aligning coupling device of claim 1 wherein the at least one laterally projecting lug comprises two opposing laterally projecting lugs formed to extend beyond both side walls of the channel when the coupling device is aligned in the channel in said the first angular position of use.

3. (Currently Amended) The self-aligning coupling device of claim 2 wherein the two laterally projecting lugs are formed so that when they are in the first position of use aligned substantially parallel with the side walls of the channel they are able to fit therebetween such that the coupling device adapted is able to slide freely within the channel.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The self-aligning coupling device of claim 1 wherein the elongate connecting portion comprises a cylindrical portion having a thread formed thereon for screw thread engagement with a cooperatively threaded adjustment member.

6. (Original) The self-aligning coupling device of claim 5 wherein the thread is formed such that torque is applied to the coupling device due to friction between the thread of the elongate connecting portion and the cooperative thread of the adjustment member.

7. (Original) The self-aligning coupling device of claim 6 wherein the thread formed on the elongate connecting portion is manufactured so as to be a snug fit with the cooperatively threaded adjustment member such that friction is increased therebetween.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The self-aligning coupling device of claim 1 wherein the at least one laterally projecting lug comprises ~~comprising~~ two lugs integrally formed at an end thereof to form a head portion having a substantially rectangular cross section.

10. (Currently Amended) The self-aligning coupling device of claim 9 wherein the dimension of the rectangular cross section of the head portion along a major axis thereof is greater than the channel width such that when located outside the open end of the channel with said major axis perpendicular to the channel walls, corresponding with the ~~first~~ second ~~angular position of use~~, the at least one laterally projecting lug lugs prevent the device from being fully retracted into the channel.

11. (Currently Amended) The self-aligning coupling device of claim 9 wherein a dimension of the rectangular cross section of the head portion along a minor axis thereof is less than the channel width to enable the head portion to fit between the side walls of the channel when aligned with the minor axis perpendicular to the channel walls, corresponding to the ~~second~~ first ~~angular position of use~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The self-aligning coupling device of claim 9 wherein the substantially rectangular cross section of the head portion comprises rounded portions at corners thereof to prevent corresponding edges of the head portion catching on the surface of an object in which the channel is formed, when rotating between the first and second ~~angular positions of~~ use.

13. (Previously Presented) The self-aligning coupling device of claim 9 wherein one or more edges and corners located at the end of the head portion are rounded or smoothed to ensure there are no angular corners or edges that may catch on a surface of an object in which the channel is formed when the device slides within the channel.

14. (Currently Amended) The self-aligning coupling device of claim 9 wherein the head portion comprises surfaces ~~formed~~ adapted to bear against corresponding surfaces adjacent to the open end of the channel.

15. (Previously Presented) The self-aligning coupling device of claim 1 wherein the channel abutment portion includes two pairs of flat surfaces, each pair of surfaces meeting at an edge therebetween and said pairs being substantially opposed to each other relative to the longitudinal axis of the coupling device.

16. (Currently Amended) The self-aligning coupling device of claim ~~[[14]]~~ 15 wherein each of said pair of surfaces meet at right angles and are arranged such that in each of said first and second ~~angular positions~~ of use one of each of said pairs of surfaces is adapted to bear ~~against~~ against a respective side wall of the channel.

17. (Currently Amended) The self-aligning coupling device of claim 1 wherein the at least two laterally projecting lugs are ~~comprising two lugs~~ integrally formed at an end thereof to form a head portion having a substantially rectangular cross section~~[[,]]~~;

wherein the channel abutment portion comprises two pairs of flat surfaces, each pair of surfaces meeting at an edge therebetween and said pairs being substantially opposed to each other relative to the longitudinal axis of the coupling device~~[[,]]~~; and

wherein said pairs of surfaces are opposed along an axis oriented at 45 degrees to the major and minor axes of the rectangular cross section of the head portion of the coupling device.

18. (Original) The self-aligning coupling device of claim 17 wherein the channel abutment portion is tapered, such that a width thereof proximate to the head portion is greater than a width proximate to the connecting portion.

19. (Previously Presented) The self-aligning coupling device of claim 17 wherein the channel abutment portion is formed integrally with the head portion, such that one of each of said pairs of surfaces is continuous with a corresponding surface of the head portion located on a side parallel to the major axis of the substantially rectangular cross section.

20. (Currently Amended) The self aligning coupling device of claim 1 further comprising at least one nib for engagement with a corresponding recess in an adjustable engagement assembly, the nib and recess being arranged such that when engaged the coupling device is retained in an angular position relative to the engagement assembly suitable to enable the complete clamping assembly formed thereby to be inserted into a corresponding recess or cavity in an object to be clamped with the coupling device ~~oriented~~arranged in said second ~~angular position of use~~ within a channel of said recess or cavity.

Claims 21 and 22 (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The self-aligning coupling device of claim 9 which is formed in two parts, the first part comprising the head portion and channel abutment portion and the second part comprising the elongate connecting portion.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) An adjustable clamp assembly comprising:
a self-aligning coupling device in accordance with claim 1; and
an adjustable engagement assembly operatively engaged with the coupling device such that an adjustment of the engagement assembly results in a translation of the coupling device along the longitudinal axis while simultaneously applying a torque to the coupling device about the longitudinal axis.

26. (Previously Presented) The adjustable clamp assembly of claim 25 wherein the elongate connecting portion of the self-aligning coupling device comprises a cylindrical portion having a thread formed thereon, and the adjustable engagement assembly comprises a cooperatively threaded adjustment member,

whereby in use the adjustment member is in screw thread engagement with the elongate connecting portion, such that a rotation of the adjustment member results in translation of the

coupling device along the longitudinal axis while simultaneously applying a torque to the coupling device about the longitudinal axis.

27. (Original) The adjustable clamp assembly of claim 26 wherein the application of torque results from friction between the thread of the elongate connecting portion and the cooperative thread of the adjustment member.

28. (Previously Presented) The adjustable clamp assembly of claim 25 wherein the adjustable engagement assembly comprises:

a first gear member having centrally a first axis of rotation; and

a second gear member having centrally a second axis of rotation substantially perpendicular to said first axis and being cooperatively engaged with the first gear member such that rotation of the first gear member about the first axis results in rotation of the second gear member about the second axis,

wherein said second gear member comprises an internally-threaded central rotatable sleeve member forming said cooperatively threaded adjustment member.

29. (Previously Presented) The adjustable clamp assembly of claim 28 wherein the first and second gear members comprise bevel gear members, and the adjustable engagement assembly further comprises a housing formed to retain therein said first and second bevel gear members in cooperative engagement with one another, the housing having at least one external surface that, in use, abuts a corresponding surface of an object to be clamped so as to function as a clamp member of the adjustable clamp assembly.

Claims 30 and 31 (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) The adjustable clamp assembly of claim 25 wherein the self-aligning coupling device includes at least one nib and the adjustable engagement assembly comprises a corresponding recess, said nib and recess being arranged such that when engaged the coupling device is retained in an angular position relative to the engagement assembly suitable to enable the clamping assembly to be inserted into a corresponding recess or cavity in an object to

be clamped with the coupling device ~~oriented~~arranged in said second ~~angular position of use~~ within a channel of said recess or cavity.

Claims 33-37 (Canceled)

38. (New) The self-aligning coupling device of claim 1 wherein further movement of the channel abutment portion in the first direction and within the open end of the channel will allow rotation of the channel abutment portion and associated at least one laterally projecting lug to the first position of use so that the channel abutment portion and associated at least one laterally projecting lug can be retracted in the second direction, thereby allowing the coupling device to be removed from the open end of the channel.